

SESSION 5 YOU WERE SHAPED TO SERVE GOD | MINISTRY

MEMORY VERSE

"We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q048evgtx3d8I&list=PLSMfXNV7r6AHUOU1vaL2ic2Abro@kYSindex-5>

CATCHING UP

- Which daily readings that you received from Pastor Anthony was especially meaningful to you this week? Share to the group your insights about it.
- How are the plans coming for your group's Living on Purpose Service Project that you discussed in your last session?

There is no such thing as a non-serving Christian.

"It is he who saved us and chose us for his holy work." 2 Timothy 1:9a (TLB)

God planned in advance what he wanted you to do with your life.

"We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)

What matters in life is not how long you live but how you live. What matters is not the duration of your life but the donation of your life.

God shaped you for service:

Spiritual Gifts
Heart
Abilities
Personality
Experiences

"Your hands shaped me and made me." Job 10:8a (NIV)

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others." 1 Peter 4:10a (NIV)

- **My fourth purpose in life is to serve God by** _____.

"Your attitude must be like my own, for I, the Messiah, did not come to be served, but to serve." Matthew 20:28 (TLB)

How to Serve Like Jesus

- **Serving like Jesus means being** _____.

"Two blind man shouted, "Lord, have mercy on us." ...Jesus stopped and called them. "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked." Matthew 20:30-32 (NIV)

If you're going to be used by God, you have to be willing to be interrupted.

"Never tell your neighbors to wait until tomorrow if you can help them now." Proverbs 3:28 (TEV)

- **Serving like Jesus means being** _____.

"Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here." John 11:41-42 (NIV)

"I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who gave me strength, because he trusted me and gave me this work of serving him." 1 Timothy 1:12 (NCV)

"Serve the Lord with gladness." Psalm 100:21 (KJV)

- **Serving like Jesus means being** _____.

“I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do.” John 17:4 (NIV)

“The one thing required of such servants is that they be faithful.” 1 Corinthians 4:2 (TEV)

“For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done.” Matthew 16:27 (NIV)

“Throw yourself into the work of the Master, confident that nothing you do for him is a waste of time and effort.” 1 Corinthians 15:58b (MSG)

“And if you give even a cup of cold water to one of the least of my followers, you will surely be rewarded.” Matthew 10:42 (NLT)

No matter how insignificant your service might seem to you, God sees it all and he rewards it all. In God’s eyes, there is no little service.

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men... It is the Lord Christ you are serving.” Colossians 3:23-24 (NIV)

“[God] will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love to him by caring for other believers.” Hebrews 6:10 (NLT)

• **Serving like Jesus means being** _____.

“You are familiar with the generosity of our Master, Jesus Christ. Rich as he was, he gave it all away for us—in one stroke he became poor and we became rich.” 2 Corinthians 8:9 (MSG)

“Out of sheer generosity [God] put in us right standing with himself. A pure gift. He got us out of the mess we’re in and restored us to where he always wanted us to be. And he did it by means of Jesus Christ.” Romans 3:24 (MSG)

“You will be glorifying God through your generous gifts. For your generosity will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ.” 2 Corinthians 9:13 (NLT)

“You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous in every occasion, and... your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.” 2 Corinthians 9:11 (NIV)



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- “We serve God by serving others. There’s no such thing as a non-serving Christian.” What would your church be like if everyone lived by this truth?

- Availability, gratitude, faithfulness, generosity—which of these four attitudes do you need to work on the most?

LIVING ON PURPOSE

S.H.A.P.E. Profile: Discover your S.H.A.P.E.! Pair up with your reading partner and complete the “Abilities” and “Personality” sections of the Purpose Driven S.H.A.P.E. Profile. Then talk about how God might use your abilities and personality traits to serve others. You can finish the rest of the profile on your own this week.

DIVING DEEPER

Do you want to go deeper in your ministry?

- Read the daily readings we send to you everyday via email.
- Read the Memory Verse everyday this week as part of your daily devotions. See if you can memorize it before your next Life Group Meeting.
- Visit agapechurchofsandiego.org to watch weekly Sermons and to access more free resources.

PRAYER DIRECTION

- Ask God to lead you into your area of ministry. If you are already actively serving in a ministry, then pray for that ministry right now.

- Pray for your Life Group’s prayer requests. Be sure to record their request on your journal.

Purpose Driven S.H.A.P.E. Profile

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

The first key factor in discovering your S.H.A.P.E. is to unwrap your spiritual gifts. Review this short list of spiritual gifts from 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4, and Romans 12. As you read through the list, place a check next to any definitions that describe you. (*You may have more than one gift, and everyone has at least one.*)

- Administration:** The ability to organize and manage people, resources and time.
- Apostle:** The ability to sense and seize the opportunities to start new churches and oversee their development.
- Discernment:** The ability to distinguish between the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.
- Encouragement:** The ability to strengthen people in their faith and motivate them to action.
- Evangelism:** The ability to preach the gospel in such a way that hearers respond with repentance unto salvation.
- Faith:** The ability to trust and obey God regardless of circumstances, appearances, or risk.
- Giving:** The ability to contribute generously to people in need.
- Healing:** The ability to minister the healing power of Jesus to people who are physically, emotionally, psychologically, or spiritually broken.
- Hospitality:** The ability to make people feel welcomed and to foster biblical fellowship.
- Leadership:** The ability to communicate vision and to motivate others to accomplish a goal.
- Mercy:** The ability to manifest compassionate, practical, cheerful love to suffering people.
- Miracles:** The ability to be used by God to perform powerful acts that glorify God and affirm the truth and power of God's Word.
- Pastoring:** The ability to foster spiritual growth in believers and equip them for ministry.
- Preaching/Prophecy:** The ability to declare publicly and persuasively the will of God through the Word of God.
- Service:** The ability to recognize and meet needs cheerfully, practically, and anonymously.
- Teaching:** The ability to explain and apply biblical truth and to train others for ministry.
- Tongues:** The ability to pray in language that is understood only by God or by one who is given the gift of interpretation at that time.
- Wisdom:** The ability to understand God's perspective on life situations and communicate those insights simply and clearly.

**some churches define these gifts differently*

Do you have a sense of what your spiritual gifts might be?

HEART

The second factor in discovering your S.H.A.P.E. is to listen to your heart. Your heart tells you what you are passionate about, and your passion are clues as to where you should be serving. What do you have passion for?

A role (What you like to do) _____

A people (Whom you like to help) _____

A cause (what you would like to see changed or supported) _____

How can you use your God-given passions and interests to serve others effectively?

ABILITIES

The third key factor in discovering your S.H.A.P.E. is applying your abilities. Here are just few God-given abilities. See if you can find any of yours in this list. Feel free to add more in the blanks.

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conversing | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing | <input type="checkbox"/> Artistic Ability | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mathematics | <input type="checkbox"/> Baking | <input type="checkbox"/> Coaching | <input type="checkbox"/> Administration | <input type="checkbox"/> Quilting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening | <input type="checkbox"/> Athletics | <input type="checkbox"/> Inventing | <input type="checkbox"/> Carpentry | <input type="checkbox"/> Brain-storming |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpting | <input type="checkbox"/> Selling | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Speaking | <input type="checkbox"/> Tailoring | <input type="checkbox"/> Debating |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recruiting | <input type="checkbox"/> Organizing | <input type="checkbox"/> Motivating | <input type="checkbox"/> Making Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Typing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fixing Things | <input type="checkbox"/> Hosting | <input type="checkbox"/> Problem-solving | <input type="checkbox"/> Animal Care | <input type="checkbox"/> Listening |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching | <input type="checkbox"/> Acting | <input type="checkbox"/> Making Money | <input type="checkbox"/> Floral Arranging | <input type="checkbox"/> Cooking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mechanics | <input type="checkbox"/> Negotiating | <input type="checkbox"/> Decorating | <input type="checkbox"/> Linguistics | <input type="checkbox"/> Videography |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Other | Other | Other | Other | Other |

God matches your ministry with your capabilities. How might God use your abilities for ministry?

PERSONALITY

The fourth key factor in discovering your S.H.A.P.E. is your personality. Your personality will affect how and where you use your spiritual gifts and abilities. Here are few God-given personality traits.

1.....2.....3.....4.....5
 Introvert (I gain energy from quiet reflection) Extrovert (I gain energy from interaction)

1.....2.....3.....4.....5
 Prefer Routine (I like to do one project at a time) Prefer Variety (I like to do several projects at once)

1.....2.....3.....4.....5
 Thinker (I analyze before deciding) Feeler (I go with my instinct)

1.....2.....3.....4.....5
 Work Alone (I prefer individual assignments) Team Player (I prefer working with a group)

1.....2.....3.....4.....5
 Structured (I read instructions before starting a task) Unstructured (I start a task and read instructions only in an emergency... if I can find them)

How can these personality traits help you discover your area of ministry?

EXPERIENCES

The fifth key factor in discovering your S.H.A.P.E. is your experiences—both good and bad.

- **Family Experiences:** What did you learn growing up as part of your family?
- **Educational Experiences:** What were your favorite subjects in school?
- **Vocational Experiences:** What jobs have you been most effective in and enjoyed the most?
- **Spiritual Experiences:** What have been your most meaningful times with God?
- **Ministry Experiences:** How have you served God in the past?

What lessons have you learned through your positive life experiences that can direct you to your area of ministry?

- **Painful Experiences:** God never wastes a hurt. People are always more encouraged when we share how God's grace helped us in our weakness than we brag about our strengths. What will you do with what you've been through? What lessons have you learned through problems, hurts, and trials? Don't waste your pain; use it to help others.

How might God use the painful experiences in your life to lead you to your ministry?

Now that you have completed your S.H.A.P.E. profile, consider these next two questions:

- One of the best places to start serving in ministry is in your small group. How can you use your S.H.A.P.E. to serve your group?

- How can you use your S.H.A.P.E. to serve your church? Meet with your church leadership to see what your next step should be in pursuing your area of service to your church.
